

Sample article for organizations to use to reach customers, taxpayers, employees etc.

Use the following article on your Web site or in any other communication vehicle to alert individuals and families about money they may be due.

----- Don't Lose out on Unclaimed Money

Unclaimed refunds totaling more than \$1.3 billion (with a 'B') are awaiting nearly 1.4 million people who did not file a federal income tax return for 2006!

But to collect the money, a person must file a tax return for 2006 with the IRS *no later than Thursday, April 15, 2010*. The IRS estimates that the median unclaimed refund for tax-year 2006 is \$604.

Here, in [insert name of state], unclaimed IRS refunds total [amount of unclaimed refund – see chart below], which is a substantial amount money that is not coming into [insert name of state] economy. More importantly, it is not being claimed by individuals and families who are due that money.

Some people may not have filed because they had too little income to require filing a tax return. Others may have put it off even though they had taxes withheld from their wages or made quarterly estimated payments. When a return is not filed, the law gives most people a three-year window of opportunity for claiming a refund. If no return is filed to claim the refund within three years, the money becomes property of the U.S. Treasury.

By failing to file a tax return, people stand to lose more than refunds of taxes withheld or paid during 2006. For example, most telephone customers, including most cell-phone users, qualify for the one-time telephone excise tax refund. Available only on the 2006 return, this special payment applies to long-distance excise taxes paid on phone service billed from March 2003 through July 2006. The government offers a standard refund amount of \$30 to \$60, or taxpayers can base their refund request on the actual amount of tax paid.

In addition, many low-and-moderate income workers may not have claimed the Earned Income Tax Credit. The EITC helps individuals and families whose incomes are below certain thresholds, which in 2006 were \$38,348 for those with two or more children, \$34,001 for people with one child and \$14,120 for those with no children.

NOTE: IRS will hold a 2006 refund check if a filer has not filed tax returns for 2007 or 2008. In addition, the refund will be applied to any amounts still owed to the IRS and may be used to satisfy unpaid child support or past due federal debts such as student loans.

NOTE TO EDITOR: Below are additional resources to help people in filing for unclaimed refunds.

- Chart to calculate unclaimed refund in each state (see below)
- [Brochure to encourage people to file their taxes, Pub. 4752, "Let's Talk" \(English and Spanish\)](#)
- [Poster to encourage people to file their taxes, Pub. 4750, "Let's Talk" \(English and Spanish\)](#)
- [Prior Year Forms, Instructions and IRS Publications](#)
- Information about [Telephone Excise Tax Refund](#)
- Find out if you qualify for [EITC](#)

For free transcripts call 1-800-829-1040, or file [Form 4506-T](#), Request for Transcript of Tax Return, with the IRS.

Individuals Who Did Not File a 2006 Return with an Estimated Refund

	Individuals	Median Est. Refund	Total Est. Refunds (\$000)*
Alabama	21,800	\$608	\$18,839
Alaska	6,300	\$693	\$6,997
Arizona	39,900	\$507	\$33,921
Arkansas	11,800	\$579	\$10,543
California	159,700	\$554	\$150,640
Colorado	25,200	\$531	\$23,119
Connecticut	15,500	\$686	\$18,676
Delaware	5,200	\$622	\$5,297
District of Columbia	5,100	\$601	\$5,448
Florida	101,700	\$641	\$110,709
Georgia	45,700	\$560	\$42,642
Hawaii	9,500	\$668	\$10,658
Idaho	5,800	\$482	\$4,723
Illinois	51,400	\$655	\$54,740
Indiana	26,600	\$641	\$24,146
Iowa	12,200	\$596	\$9,990
Kansas	13,400	\$586	\$11,771
Kentucky	14,500	\$610	\$12,976
Louisiana	23,800	\$641	\$24,615
Maine	4,900	\$561	\$4,203
Maryland	30,800	\$616	\$29,938
Massachusetts	29,000	\$669	\$31,939
Michigan	42,800	\$618	\$40,790
Minnesota	18,900	\$552	\$16,227
Mississippi	11,800	\$567	\$10,120
Missouri	25,800	\$561	\$21,090
Montana	4,000	\$530	\$3,425
Nebraska	6,100	\$590	\$5,390
Nevada	19,400	\$575	\$19,163
New Hampshire	5,400	\$706	\$5,943
New Jersey	39,900	\$666	\$43,030
New Mexico	9,800	\$560	\$8,612
New York	76,700	\$666	\$87,563
North Carolina	39,100	\$539	\$32,919
North Dakota	2,100	\$589	\$1,875
Ohio	44,600	\$593	\$38,467
Oklahoma	18,200	\$576	\$15,779
Oregon	21,900	\$490	\$18,340
Pennsylvania	47,100	\$652	\$45,050
Rhode Island	4,300	\$652	\$4,231
South Carolina	16,400	\$534	\$13,810
South Dakota	2,500	\$604	\$2,193
Tennessee	22,200	\$598	\$19,756
Texas	109,600	\$653	\$114,720
Utah	9,200	\$528	\$9,592
Vermont	2,200	\$565	\$1,782
Virginia	40,600	\$594	\$39,460
Washington	37,100	\$641	\$39,713
West Virginia	4,800	\$660	\$4,775
Wisconsin	17,000	\$564	\$14,903
Wyoming	2,900	\$691	\$3,229
US Armed Forces	4,800	\$821	\$4,367
US Possessions & Territories	200	\$887	\$444
Totals	1,367,200	\$604	\$1,333,288*